

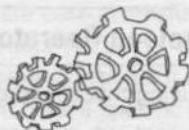
# VISUALIZING THE SEARCH PROCESS

## Planning/Thinking

### Identifying the problem

Essential questions?  
How much information  
do I need?  
What type of information  
do I need?  
(primary sources?  
magazine articles?  
reference?)  
Point of view?

## Searching



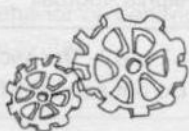
## Refining/Evaluating

### Refining the problem

Are my questions too  
broad? Too narrow?  
Did I discover better  
questions as I searched?  
Are my results  
comprehensive?  
Balanced? Readable?  
Of high quality?  
Should I seek  
adult advice?

### Selecting appropriate search tools

Search engines?  
Subject directories?  
Subscription databases?  
Invisible Web?  
Experts?  
OPAC?

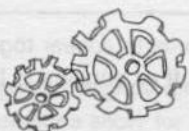


### Refining search tool choices

Did I select the  
right databases?  
Are there others left to try?  
Print resources I  
should consider?  
Should I seek  
adult advice?

### Developing search strategies

Brainstorming  
keywords, synonyms,  
related words?  
Boolean strategies?  
Phrases?  
Considering the syntax  
of selected  
search tools?



### Refining search strategies

Were my strategies  
effective?  
Should I refer to tip sheets?  
Advanced screens?  
Have I found additional  
keywords or concepts?  
Do I need  
to revise spelling?  
Should I seek  
adult advice?

These steps are not necessarily performed in exact order. Searching Is Cyclical! Searching Is Interactive! Reconsider questions and revise your strategies as you respond to your results. Good searchers use a variety of search tools as well as print sources.